

COLOMBIAN NEWS AND VIEWS

The Official Organ of the Mennonite Brethren Mission in Colombia

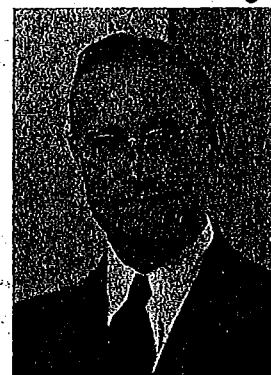
VOL. III—NO. 11



JANUARY, 1953 1954

MISSION BOARD MEMBER VISITS FIELD

Dr. G. W. Peters of Fresno, Calif., arrived in Colombia by Pan-American Airways on June 2, 1953. Dr. Peters visited all our stations as well as other places connected with our work. It was our privilege to have him with us at our First National Convention in Noanama and also at our Missionary Council Meetings in Istmina. His spiritual messages, mission talks, and keen interest in the work of the field were a real help and inspiration to the missionaries. Dr. Peters, besides being a member of the Foreign Mission Board of our Conference, is professor of Missions, Theology, and Philosophy at the Pacific Bible Institute at Fresno, Calif., as well as the author of several books on Missions.



Dr. G. W. Peters

ANOTHER NURSE GETS ENTRANCE



Doris A. Harder

Miss Doris A. Harder of Mountain Lake, Minn., arrived on the field on Nov. 4, 1953. After spending a few days in LaCumbre, Valle, she went on to Istmina, Choco, for her language study with senior missionaries. After language study Miss Harder will take up the dispensary work in Noanama. Colombian doors are open to professional workers.

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ISTMINA



The Missionary Council gathered at mealtime during their meetings in Istmina in July-August, 1953. Only part of the missionaries and visitors are seen. Twice a year all the missionaries meet for spiritual up-building and to plan the work of the mission for the future. At such times all eat together like one big family. The more recent Council Meetings (Dec. '53-Jan. '54) were held in LaCumbre



Chocoano (black) boys and Donnie Wirsche enjoying games in the Single Lady Missionaries' front room. Games, books, and spiritual records are made available for young people and children not only to keep them off the street but to give them the Gospel.

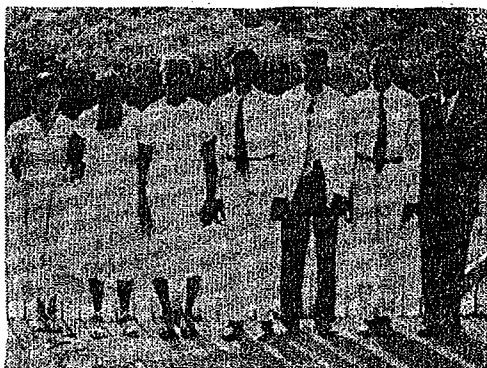
LAND BOUGHT AFTER YEARS OF NEGOTIATING

Since the work was begun in Istmina six years ago, the mission has sought to buy land for a cemetery and a compound. It seemed almost impossible to get any land because to any land that might be available there were so many owners that it was impossible for them to come to an agreement or give us a clear title.

The lack of a cemetery was always a draw-back to the work for the following reasons: First, Evangelicals are not permitted to bury their dead in the church cemetery of another religious group, and the people were being informed that we throw the bodies into the river. Second, it was a disgrace to bury anyone in the civil cemetery because only criminals and suicides are buried there, that is, those who will not go to heaven according to the concept of the unevangelized native.

More than three years ago we started dealing for a piece of land very well located, a little above the level of the town of Istmina. After much negotiating and much patience, the deal finally came through now during the time we were expected to give up our mission work and residence in the Choco. We can only say, "This work was wrought of our God."

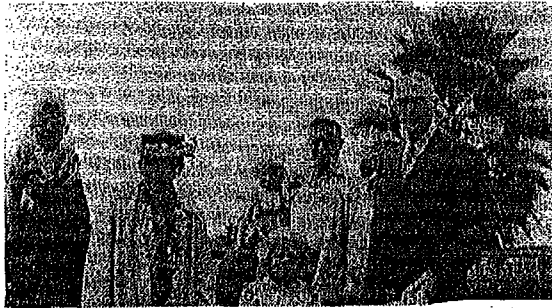
The mission now owns some fifty acres of land. In a short time we expect to have the cemetery ready. After some leveling of land we will also be able to do some building. We are very grateful unto the Lord.



These believers were baptized and received into the Istmina church about a year ago. At the extreme right is the National pastor and at the left his wife, Mr. and Mrs. David Vivas. The others, left to right, are: Rimalda, who has borne a staunch testimony as cook in the public market place; Leoncia, who has been a faithful believer and attendant at church for several years in spite of much ridicule; Daniel, who is now studying in the Bible Institute in Armenia; Francisco (father to Daniel), who is now church leader and ever ready to proclaim the Gospel to others; Victor, who had no previous schooling but is now receiving private classes from missionaries in preparation for entrance into Bible School.

VISITORS . . .

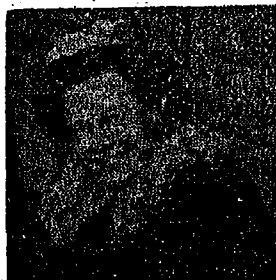
PARENTS VISIT MISSIONARY CHILDREN



Dwight, Mrs. John B. Fadenrecht, AnnaBeth and Rosalyn, Mr. Bennie J. Fadenrecht, and Mr. John B. Fadenrecht. Mrs. Bennie J. Fadenrecht is not on the picture.

Mr. and Mrs. John B. Fadenrecht of Salem, Ore., (formerly of Munich, N. Dak.) arrived in LaCumbre, Valle, on June 23, 1953, to visit for two months with their children, Mr. and Mrs. Bennie J. Fadenrecht and their grandchildren, Dwight, Rosalyn and AnnaBeth. They also visited the other mission stations as well as other missions in the Valle and Choco. While in Cali, Mr. Fadenrecht climbed the mountain to the three crosses over-looking the city—a commendable feat for an elderly man in a tropical country. The Fadenrechts' visit was enjoyed by all.

MCC WORKER STOPS IN



Miss Olga Enns

Miss Olga Enns of Kitchener, Ont., stopped in Colombia from Oct. 17 to Nov. 28, 1953, to visit the mission enroute to her home in Canada. Miss Enns spent three years in Montevideo, Uruguay, as a MCC worker, serving as matron of the MCC home as well as doing spiritual work among the young people and children. Visitors in Colombia are always more than welcome.

Meet Miss Harder

Miss Doris Annette Harder was born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Harder on Oct. 27, 1927, in Bingham Lake, Minn. Miss Harder grew up in Mountain Lake, where she also attended high school, graduating in the spring of 1945. After taking two years of studies at Tabor College, she entered nurses' training in the Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis. Upon graduation in 1950 she worked for one year in the hospital in Mountain Lake. In the fall of 1951 she again took up studies in Tabor College. She graduated in May, 1953, with an A. B. major in Bible and a minor in Biology.

At the age of about eleven the Lord spoke to Miss Harder through John 3:16. During special meetings with Rev. Hofer she surrendered to Him.

Miss Harder helped in Sunday School and DVBS teaching and camp work. While in training she took active part in the activities of the Christian Workers Group, Y. W. C. A., and Mission Band.

Before her conversion Miss Harder already felt the call to the mission field. After conversion the Lord gave her continued assurance during her time of preparation. In answer to an urgent appeal for nurses for Colombia, Miss Harder made application and was accepted in 1952.

Miss Harder was ordained in her home church of Mountain Lake on Sept. 6, 1953. Those that officiated were Rev. J. G. Baerg, Rev. A. E. Janzen, and Rev. H. E. Wiens. Miss Harder left by plane from Houston, Texas, on Nov. 3, arriving in Cali, Colombia, the following day. She took up language study on our mission station in Istmina, Choco.

Further News Items

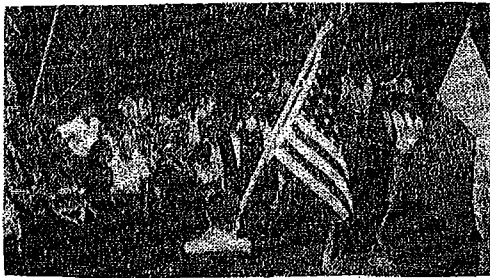
June 5, 1953—Rev. and Mrs. Jacob A. Loewen and daughters, Gladys, Joyce, and Sharon, left for the States and Canada for their furlough.

June 6, 1953—Miss Kathryn Lentzner arrived on the field for her second term of service after spending a year in the home-land.

July 12, 1953—Seven believers were baptized and received into the church at LaCumbre.

July 26, 27, 28, 1953—The first National Convention took place at Noanama, Choco.

LA CUMBRE



These are the pupils of the two schools of our Conference represented in LaCumbre, the National School, called "Colegio de los Andes" and the Missionary Children's School on Nov. 11, 1953. The Colombians celebrate the Independence of Cartagena on the same date that the United States celebrates Armistice Day. The two schools celebrated together. Both gave their interpretation of the holiday and, of course the program was in both English and Spanish.



Grandmother Gregoria, granddaughter Maria Elvia, and daughter-in-law and mother Ester were for many years the only three faithful witnesses (representing the three generations) in a large family and community. Even in times of severe persecution (lives in danger) Grandmother Gregoria would come walking to church. Now the Lord has begun to answer prayer. It is a group of some twelve that leaves home every Sunday morning at 6:00 to get to the service at 9:30 in LaCumbre.

Rejoice with us!



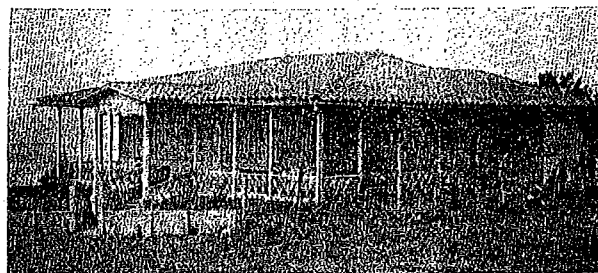
These are some of the missionary children on their school compound. A great interest and enthusiasm is felt for every project on the grounds. Here a high brick wall is being constructed between the building and the public road. This was necessary because of the steep bank left after leveling the ground for the school.



Meet Senorita Amalia, the national nurse, on duty. She readily responds to calls for medical aid from mountain homes. We are waiting upon the Lord for a much-needed dispensary building. Meanwhile in one little nook in her room Amalia has some medical supplies for those who come for injections, dressings, gashes that need stitches, etc. She treats them all with the same calmness and affection. This year she is also matron of the girls and part-time teacher in the National School.



Here we see the first two classrooms of our new National Day School under construction. This part of the proposed building is the south end; it is the first third of the building. The plan is to build another section of classrooms similar to that in the picture toward the north, and in between these two sections we wish to construct an auditorium. This school building is to help meet the great demand for a much larger and better equipped school.



The "Blue Jay." All the homes in LaCumbre have their special names. Likewise this house, where the Wilmer Quirings and Miss Lillian Schafer live, has its special name. It is located directly opposite the National Day School which is an ideal place for the missionaries working in that school. At present it is rented. We pray that the Lord may give us funds to buy this home, if so be His will, because of the great need for missionary living quarters in LaCumbre.

